



Course information

Course website: <http://www.ernestoamaral.com/soci320-19fall.html>

Meeting location: Harrington Education Center Classroom Building (HECC) 201
(<https://aggiemap.tamu.edu/?bldg=0438>)

Meeting times: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:45–2pm

Instructor information

Ernesto F. L. Amaral, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

Office location: Academic Building 415 (<http://aggiemap.tamu.edu/?bldg=0462>)

Office hours: Wednesday, 1:30–3:30pm; and by appointment.
Appointment requests must be made at least 72 hours in advance.

Phone: (979)845–9706

Email: amaral@tamu.edu

Course description

The main objective of this course is to introduce methods in demography, related to fertility, mortality, migration, and population projections. Discussions about demographic issues will be linked to the methods needed to analyze these topics. No prior coursework in demography or advanced statistics is assumed. Homework assignments will focus on short essay questions, data analysis, and application of statistical techniques.

I will cover topics related to procedures and techniques of demographic analysis, examination of demographic data, concepts of periods and cohorts, synthetic cohorts, the Lexis diagram, calculation of rates and probabilities, rate of natural increase, population growth and decline, and age-sex composition. The course will also cover trends and differentials in **fertility**, proximate determinants of fertility, period and cohort measures, and tempo-quantum effects. I will address **mortality** period and cohort measures, epidemiological transition, causes of mortality decline, standardization, and construction of life tables. Topics on **migration** will evaluate trends and differentials in population flows, estimation of migration rates, urbanization, and effects on receiving and sending areas. Finally, the course will cover population estimates and **projections**, age structure transition, changes in household composition, labor force participation, and population policies.

Learning outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- Identify and describe concepts and methods in demography, related to fertility, mortality, and migration.
- Select secondary data to evaluate general demographic trends throughout the world and over time.
- Apply demographic methods to data from sub-national areas.
- Estimate and interpret fertility, mortality, and migration indicators.
- Explain and give examples of population estimates and projections.

Textbooks and resource material

The following textbook is **required** for this course. There are several options to buy or rent (new, used or digital) copies of this book. As a student at Texas A&M you are not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from independent retailers, including online retailers.

Wachter, Kenneth W. 2014. **Essential Demographic Methods**. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (W)
([MSC Bookstore](#))
([Amazon](#))
([Free Ebook at Texas A&M University](#))

I will also cover a couple of chapters from the following textbook, but it is **not required** for this course.

Poston, Dudley L.; Bouvier, Leon F. 2017. **Population and Society: An Introduction to Demography**. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2nd edition. (P)
([MSC Bookstore](#))
([Amazon](#))

Via the course website, I will provide files containing this syllabus, slides, extra readings, exams, databases, external links, and other materials, which will be uploaded throughout the semester.

Grading policies and scale

Grading scale: The course follows the standard rules of the university regarding the letter grading scale (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule10>).

Assessment	Percent of final grade	Grading scale	Percent
Assignment 1	20%	A	90–100%
Assignment 2	20%	B	80–89%
Assignment 3	20%	C	70–79%
Assignment 4	20%	D	60–69%
Final exam	20%	F	0–59%
Total	100%		
Teaching evaluation	1%		
Bonus	1%		

Assignments will be given in class and will consist of short essay questions, data analysis, and application of statistical techniques. The date and time are available in the calendar of activities of this syllabus. See more information about Student Rules regarding examinations via the following link (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule08>). Students will have extra time after the class to submit their assignments. Students should develop assignments **individually**.

The **Final exam** will be given in class and will consist of multiple-choice questions and others. The date and time are available in the calendar of activities of this syllabus. This exam will be given during final examinations week in accordance with the schedule published by the Office of the Registrar (<http://registrar.tamu.edu/Courses,-Registration,-Scheduling/Final-Examination-Schedules>).

Students should have 8.5"x11" **Scantron testing forms** (<http://www.ernestoamaral.com/docs/soci312-19spring/Scantron.pdf>) in the classroom, which will be used for the final exam. You will also need No. 2 pencils to bubble in answers.

Teaching evaluation: In the **last lecture** of the semester, the professor will give the teaching evaluation form for students to complete. Students who sign the attendance sheet this day will receive one bonus point toward their final grade. There will be no makeup opportunities for this evaluation, because it is a bonus activity.

Bonus assignments will test specific chapters throughout the course. Students should develop assignments **individually**.

No late submission: There will be no makeup opportunities for these assignments, because they are bonus activities.

Submission: Assignments and bonus assignments should be submitted through Turnitin within eCampus. Turnitin is an online database system designed to help instructors **detect plagiarism**, track citations, facilitate peer reviews, and provide paperless grading markup in written assignments (<http://its.tamu.edu/Systems-Software/TurnItIn>). If you are having issues submitting an assignment through Turnitin, email the document as an attached Word file directly to the professor by the due date.

Due dates: Students will have until 11:59pm of the due dates to turn in assignments and bonus assignments through eCampus. Due dates are listed in the calendar of activities of this syllabus.

Late submission: Students who submit their assignments after the due date will have a one-point reduction in their grade for each day of late submission. Late submissions will only be accepted before the grades for a specific assignment are posted on eCampus.

Communication: I will utilize eCampus (<http://ecampus.tamu.edu/>) to communicate with students, receive assignments and bonus assignments, and provide other resources.

Assignments and exams will not be graded on a curve.

Study groups: You are not competing with others in this class for a grade. Feel free to form study groups to review course materials. However, assignments are not group projects. All assignments should reflect only your own work. Students should not prepare or compare their answers to assignments with the work of others before submitting for a grade.

Class participation

You are responsible for your own learning, but your actions affect the entire class. Active participation in class discussion is vital to the shared learning experience. For this to work, everyone must come prepared to class, having done the readings and come prepared to discuss the week's readings in depth. Active participation is premised on respect. Being prepared for class, listening attentively, challenging ideas and not individuals—are all markers of respect in a community of learning. Thus, I expect everyone to attend class and value each other's ideas. **Hate speech will not be tolerated.**

Attendance policy

This course is organized on the assumption that students will attend and participate in every class. The University views class attendance as the responsibility of an individual student. Attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. **I will take attendance each class.** University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located online at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>.

Dates on which exams and the final exam will be due are provided in the calendar of this syllabus. Topics and dates of lectures, exams, and the final exam are subject to change. Eventual changes will be clarified during classes and will be posted on the course website. Students who miss class are responsible for searching for information on: changes to the class schedule announced during the lecture periods, changes in exam coverage announced during the lecture periods, any materials distributed during the lecture periods, and all materials presented in the lectures. The course website and fellow students in the class are resources to help you stay current on the schedule and any course changes.

Students will need to sign an attendance sheet each day with a blue or black ink pen, in order for attendance to be considered valid. It is your responsibility to make sure you sign the attendance sheet if you are in class that day.

Make-up policy

If an absence is excused, the instructor will either provide the student an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam, or other work that contributes to the final grade or provide a satisfactory alternative by a date agreed upon by the student and instructor. If the instructor has a regularly scheduled make up exam, students are expected to attend, unless they have a university-approved excuse. **The make-up work must be completed in a timeframe not to exceed 30 calendar days from the last day of the initial absence.**

Absence policy

The student is responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to the instructor to substantiate the reason for the absence. The specifics of what constitutes an excused absence are available at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>. The fact that these are university-excused absences does not relieve the student from responsibility for prior notification and documentation. Failure to notify and/or document properly may result in an unexcused absence. Falsification of documentation is a violation of the Honor Code. **Documentation has to be provided in print to the professor during regular class hours, not by email.**

Other absences not listed in the link above may be excused at the discretion of the instructor with prior notification and proper documentation. In cases where prior notification is not feasible (e.g., accident or emergency) the **student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence**, including an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class. Accommodations sought for absences due to the observance of a religious holiday can be sought either prior to or after the absence, but not later than two working days after the absence.

Electronic devices and eating in class

During classes, laptops, tablets, and smartphones should not be used for activities that are not directly related to the course.

Examples of **activities unrelated to class** include: checking and answering email, texting, scheduling appointments, viewing videos, and viewing websites with materials unrelated to the course.

Examples of **activities related to class** include: reviewing documents and course materials posted on the web, and examining websites that are visited as part of the lecture. If the policy is not respected, I will ban all devices for non-laptop required sessions.

Eating is not permitted during classes.

University Writing Center (UWC)

The mission of the University Writing Center (UWC) is to help you develop and refine the communication skills vital to success in college and beyond. You can choose to work with a trained UWC peer consultant in person or via web conference or email. Consultants can help with everything from lab reports to application essays and at any stage of your process, from brainstorming to reviewing the final draft. You can also get help with public speaking, presentations, and group projects. The UWC's main location is on the second floor of Evans Library; there's also a walk-in location on the second floor of West Campus Library. To schedule an appointment or view our helpful handouts and videos, visit <http://writingcenter.tamu.edu>. Or call (979)458-1455.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policy statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

Office hours

Office hours are intended to assist students who are seeking help understanding course materials (lectures, readings, lab classes, etc.) and to mentor students. Office hours do not substitute for attendance in class. I will not discuss missed classes unless the student missed those classes because of an authorized excuse. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located online at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>. As Student Rules state: (1) it is the student's responsibility to attend class; and (2) if I used office hours to substitute for attendance in class, it would be a disservice to students who wish to use office hours to enhance their academic success.

Academic integrity statement and policy

As members of a community of learning, it is imperative that all students be aware of and abide by the rules of academic integrity. They state that students and faculty will refuse to participate in or tolerate plagiarism, cheating or falsification of information. Knowledge is built upon the work of others—that work must be recognized appropriately. If you use an idea, paraphrased sentences or words of another person(s) you must cite them. When in doubt, cite the work. It is preferable to over-cite than to take credit for someone else's work. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

According to the Aggie Honor System Office, plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. Plagiarism is just one form of academic misconduct; plagiarism and cheating are perhaps the most commonly practiced (http://library.tamu.edu/services/library_tutorials/academic_integrity/index.html).

Definitions of academic misconduct are available in this link (<http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Rules-and-Procedures/Rules/Honor-System-Rules#Definitions>). Suspected cases will be sent to the Aggie Honor System Office where an investigation will proceed. The consequences of academic dishonesty range from grade sanctions to expulsion from the University. This is a very serious matter.

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do”
(<http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>).

Title IX and statement on limits to confidentiality

Texas A&M University and the College of Liberal Arts are committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws provide guidance for achieving such an environment. Although class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to student record policies and laws, University employees — including instructors — cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues that jeopardize the health and safety of our community. As the instructor, I must report (per Texas A&M System Regulation 08.01.01) the following information to other University offices if you share it with me, even if you do not want the disclosed information to be shared:

- Allegations of sexual assault, sexual discrimination, or sexual harassment when they involve TAMU students, faculty, or staff, or third parties visiting campus.

These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In many cases, it will be your decision whether or not you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the Student Counseling Service (<https://scs.tamu.edu/>).

Students and faculty can report non-emergency behavior that causes them to be concerned at <http://tellsomebody.tamu.edu>.

If you have been sexually assaulted, you have options for help. Reporting resources will report your assault to the university, non-reporting resources will keep it confidential.

– Reporting Resources

STUDENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Student Services @ White Creek
Student Life 3 (Bldg. #72), Room 101
College Station, TX 77843-1257
Phone: (979)845-3111

TAMU POLICE DEPARTMENT

1111 Research Pkwy
College Station, TX 77845
(979)845-2345

*ANY TAMU EMPLOYEE (EXCEPT COUNSELING & BUETEL) ARE MANDATORY REPORTERS.

– Non-reporting Resources

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESOURCE CENTER (SARC)

Free 24/7 Crisis Hotline, Counseling, accompaniments to hospital.
24/7 Crisis Hotline: (979)731-1000
<http://www.sarcbv.org>

TAMU COUNSELING SERVICES

757 West Campus Blvd.
College Station, TX 77843-1263
Phone: (979)845-4427

BAYLOR SCOTT & WHITE

(24/7 Sexual Assault exams)
700 Scott and White Dr.
College Station, TX 77845
(979)207-0100

Calendar of activities, course topics, and exams (tentative)

The tentative calendar of activities below includes dates, course topics, readings, and exam dates for this course. Changes will be indicated during classes and will be posted on the course website.

Lecture	Date	Topic	Reading Author.chapter	Assignment content
AUGUST				
01	08/27 (Tuesday)	Syllabus & Introduction	Syllabus, P.1, P.12	
02	08/29 (Thursday)	Don't panic: Hans Rosling showing the facts about population	Video	Bonus assignment 1
SEPTEMBER				
03	09/03 (Tuesday)	Exponential growth	W.1	
04	09/05 (Thursday)	Exponential growth	W.1	
05	09/10 (Tuesday)	Periods and cohorts	W.2	
06	09/12 (Thursday)	Periods and cohorts	W.2	
07	09/17 (Tuesday)	Work on assignment 1 in the classroom	W.1 & 2	Assignment 1
08	09/19 (Thursday)	Cohort mortality	W.3	
09	09/24 (Tuesday)	Cohort mortality	W.3	
10	09/26 (Thursday)	Cohort mortality	W.3	
OCTOBER				
11	10/01 (Tuesday)	Cohort fertility	W.4	
12	10/03 (Thursday)	Cohort fertility	W.4	
13	10/08 (Tuesday)	Cohort fertility	W.4	
14	10/10 (Thursday)	Work on assignment 2 in the classroom	W.3 & 4	Assignment 2
15	10/15 (Tuesday)	Population projection	W.5	
16	10/17 (Thursday)	Population projection	W.5	
17	10/22 (Tuesday)	Work on assignment 2 in the classroom	W.3 & 4	
18	10/24 (Thursday)	Work on assignment 2	W.3 & 4	
19	10/29 (Tuesday)	Population projection	W.5	
20	10/31 (Thursday)	Period fertility	W.6	

Lecture	Date	Topic	Reading Author.chapter	Assignment content
NOVEMBER				
21	11/05 (Tuesday)	Period fertility	W.6	
22	11/07 (Thursday)	Period fertility	W.6	
23	11/12 (Tuesday)	Age pyramids	W.10.1	
24	11/14 (Thursday)	Work on assignment 3 in the classroom	W.5, 6 & 10.1	Assignment 3
25	11/19 (Tuesday)	Work on assignment 3 in the classroom	W.5, 6 & 10.1	
26	11/21 (Thursday)	Period mortality	W.7	
27	11/26 (Tuesday)	Period mortality	W.7	
—	11/28 (Thursday)	Thanksgiving, no class	—	
28	12/03 (Tuesday)	Work on assignment 4 in the classroom	W.7	Assignment 4 & Teaching evaluation
29	12/11 (Wednesday)	Final exam, 8–10am		Material from lectures 1–28